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15 April 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE IAC

Subject: Industrial Register Cards

1. In early 1947 the CIA (then CIG) assumed the function of completing the exploitation of captured German and Japanese documents for the industrial information contained therein, and of disseminating that information in the form of "ICF Cards" which might be filed together, under geographic and industrial headings, as an Industrial Card File. A parallel function, assumed from ID, OSUSA, at this time was the exploitation in like manner of industrial information contained in the current USSR press.

2. The exploitation of the available captured documents noted above has now been completed.

3. The industrial information derived from available USSR and satellite press and periodicals is now being disseminated to appropriate agencies through the medium of Foreign Documents Branch Reports on a current basis. The ICF Cards now being issued are, in very large measure, a duplication of the data being disseminated in and other Reports.

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4. It has been proposed that the clerical and analytical effort now being expended on the production and dissemination of ICF Cards, which are in practically all cases duplications of material already disseminated in other reports, might better be used in the building and maintaining the Master File in the Industrial Register, CIA, and in responding to requests from IAC Agencies for compiled information therefrom. A description of a proposed method is attached.

5. It is recognized that complete conversion to the multilith system would be achieved only over a considerable period of time. The end result, however, seems highly desirable now that the interim measures to achieve spot control of the great bulk of available data are well in hand. During the conversion period, CIA will respond to requests for documented information using these requests as a part of the conversion program.

6. Concurrence in the proposed plan, or substantiated objection thereto by your Agency, is requested prior to 1 May 1949.

PRESKOTT CHILDS
Chief, ICAPS, CIA

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